

Report of Accomplishments

Fiscal Year 2005

Payette Soil and Water Conservation District

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County: Payette

Legislative District(s): 9



Function

- Payette Soil and Water Conservation District will work towards conserving and enhancing all natural resources for the economic and environmental benefit of present and future generations in Payette County.

Natural Resource Improvements Summary

- The Payette Field Office developed 11 new conservation plans on 1495 acres of irrigated cropland and 237 acres of grazing land.
- Conservation systems were applied on 30 previously existing plans on 2478 acres of cropland, 5410 acres of grazed range, 326 acres of pasture, and 547 acres of wildlife or naturalized areas.
- Application of two existing Coordinated Nutrient Management Plans was completed.
- Conservation practices planned included 175 acres of Anionic Polyacrylamide Erosion Control, 818 acres of conservation crop rotation, 16460 feet of Fence, 75 acres of Forage Harvest Management, 77 acres of Irrigation Land Leveling, 127 acres of Sprinkler Irrigation Systems, 187 acres of Surface Irrigation Systems, 19,550 feet of Concrete Ditch Lining, 12,540 feet of Low-Pressure Plastic Pipeline, 1,200 feet of Gated Pipeline, 120 feet of Steel Pipeline, 876 acres of Irrigation Water Management, eight acres of Land Smoothing, 1,626 acres of Nutrient Management, 66 acres of Pasture Planting, 510 acres of Pest Management, 149 acres of Prescribed Grazing, 22 Structures for Water Control, 1,400 feet of Underground Outlet, 138 acres of Upland Wildlife Habitat Management and four acres of Use Exclusion.
- Conservation practices applied included 74 acres of Anionic Polyacrylamide Erosion Control, 926 acres of Conservation Crop Rotation, 11,522 feet of Fence, 31 acres of Filter Strip, 4 acres of Forage Harvest Management, 97 acres of Irrigation Land Leveling, one Irrigation Regulating Reservoir, 42 acres of Micro irrigation (Drip) Systems, 309 acres of Sprinkler Irrigation Systems, 113 acres of Surface Irrigation Systems, 11,345 feet of Concrete Ditch Lining, 1,440 feet of High-Pressure Pipeline, 3,519 feet of Low-Pressure Pipeline, 3,450 feet of Gated Pipeline, 749 feet of Steel Pipeline, 1,309 acres of Irrigation Water Management, 1,582 acres of Nutrient Management, 35 acres of Pasture Planting, 4,173 acres of Pest Management, 3,779 acres of Prescribed Grazing, three Pumping Plants, five Sediment Basins, 13 Structures for Water Control, three acres of Tree/Shrub establishment, 194 acres of Upland Wildlife Habitat Management, 205 acres of Use Exclusion, 92 acres of Waste Utilization, and 3 acres of Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management.
- NRCS field office completed status reviews for more than 40 existing program contracts. We also updated and uploaded all conservation planning information into the new progress reporting system, and completed reconciliation of all EQIP contracts in the new NRCS Protracts web-based contracting system.

Conservation District Priority #1- District Operations

- Maintain a viable district in order to provide efficient and effective service to the public.
- Continued assistance to cooperators to develop and implement programs to conserve natural resources.
- Held two Local Working Group meetings to discuss the ranking of programs for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) in our local area and discussed natural resource concerns in our local area.
- The Payette SWCD, Southwest District Health, and Canyon County Drainage District #2 (CCDD#2) formed a partnership to address natural resource concerns along the CCDD#2 drainage pertaining to resource concerns that will be addressed by the Lower Snake River TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) and septic systems that do not meet today's standards.
- To help finance the Lower Snake-Payette Clean Water Project the Payette Soil and Water Conservation District, the Southwest District Health, and the Canyon County Drainage District #2 applied for an Idaho Department of Environmental Quality Non-point Source 319 grant.
- The Payette SWCD hired Terry Finnerty for the Soil Conservation Aide position. This is a part-time position funded by the NRCS and the IASCD. He has been involved in the Drainage District Consortium and identifying projects for the 319 grant.
- The Payette SWCD, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Payette County, and the local drainage Districts formed the Drainage District Consortium. The partnership is working to update, consolidate information and methods of operations for the drainage districts.

Conservation District Priority #2- Information and Education

- The Payette SWCD had a booth at the KSRV Treasure Valley Ag Show and sponsored a table at the Payette Chamber of Commerce of Awards dinner, and held an Annual Appreciation dinner.
- The District in collaboration with the Adams SWCD and Weiser River SCD sponsor a display at the Idaho State House.
- We sponsor the 2004 State FFA Leadership Convention, the FFA/4-H Land judging contest, the natural resource workshop teachers and students, and Envirothon.

- The District Administrative Assistant presented the “Incredible Edible Aquifer” to 150 fourth graders at the Fruitland Elementary School, and provided 175 “Water and Me” books to second graders at the same school. The District Administrative Assistant at the request of the Treasure Valley Community College (TVCC) presented the “Incredible Edible Aquifer” to 385 students from schools in Oregon and Idaho at the “TVCC Ag in the Classroom”.
- Place signs on current and completed Best Management Practices (BMPs).
- The Payette SWCD, the Weiser River SCD, and the University of Idaho sponsored a “Project Wet” Workshop for K-12 teachers with 20 teachers attending.
- The Payette SWCD sponsored our annual “Sixth Grade Field Days” for area sixth graders we had 350 students.
- The District Administrative Assistant presented the “S. K. Worm” program to 36 students for the City of New Plymouth Library summer reading program. The library had additional reading material on worms and soil to follow up.
- We had a booth at the Payette County Fair and the District was a livestock buyer at the FFA/4-H Livestock Auction held during the fair.
- We held a speech and poster contest for area students.
- We help sponsor the Payette County Noxious Weed and Gopher Department tour and certification workshop.
- We had a booth at Fruitland Fun Day featuring our educational programs.
- We published a quarterly newsletter with a readership of over 900 readers and had articles in the local newspaper.
- We provided the local libraries, schools, and businesses with information for Stewardship week

Conservation District Priority #3- Water Quality

- Support the NRCS Spanish Irrigators Water Management training video and workshops.
- Applied for an Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) Non-point source 319 grant to address concerns on the Lower Snake-Payette Rivers as outlined in the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) of the Snake River-Hells Canyon TMDL, Upstream Snake River Segment and Weiser Area Ground Water Quality Management Plan is ranked Nitrate Priority Area #1 in the State of Idaho. The Weiser Area
- Assist the City of Fruitland with implementation of the Source Water Protection Plan.
- Support the Drainage Districts Consortium.
- Support the Jewel Wetland project.
- Completed the Idaho Water Quality Project for Agriculture (IWQPA) on the Lower Payette River, which treated 1,510 acres of critical land with BMPs meeting the TMDL goals for the Lower Payette River roughly \$439,000 in WQPA funds, the District leveraged \$238,000 in landowner resources and over \$33,000 in incentive funds from other sources to apply these practices.

Community Collaboration & Coordination

- The Payette SWCD had representatives on the following: Southwest Basin Advisory Group (BAG), the Lower Snake River Public Advisory Team (PAT), the Canyon county Drainage District #2, the West Central Highland Resource Conservation Development (RC&D), Ethanol Production, Carbon Sequestration, and the City of Fruitland Source Water Protection Plan.
- We are members of the Payette Chamber of Commerce.
- We support the local school district (public, private, and Home Educators), and the Payette County Planning and Zoning.
- We have representatives on the Lower Payette River WAG and the Drainage District Consortium.
- We are in good standing with several professional organizations, the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD), The Association of Soil Conservation Districts (IASCD), Division III, and the Idaho District Employee Association (IDEA).
- We had a representative(s) to the 2004 NACD Conference, the IASCD Conference, and spring and fall Division III meetings.
- Claude Bruce (Payette SWCD Supervisor) is the Director of Division III and vice-president of the IASCD, Carol Bruce (Associate Supervisor) is President of the Auxiliary, Charlene Wimpy (District Administrative Assistant) is treasurer of Division III and vice-chair of the IDEA.
- Keith Schuller (Payette SWCD Supervisor) is the local corner and councilperson on the City of Fruitland city council, Bill Peutz is an active member of the Payette Master Gardeners, Jo Anne Smith (Payette SWCD Supervisor) had a booth at the farmer market a fundraiser for “Project Rose”, an organization for abused women and children.
- We are involved with the Payette Greenway, Carbon Sequestration, Payette Tree Committee and Jewel Wetland.

Synopsis of Assistance Coordinated for Constituents with Conservation Partners

To plan, design and implement best management practices to protect, enhance and conserve Idaho's renewable natural resources.

Source	Purpose/Benefit	Funding
County	District Operations	\$ 6,500.00
State of Idaho	District Operations	\$ 16,600.00
USDA Farm Program	Conservation	\$ 53,000.00
IWQPA	Water Quality	\$ 11,053.00
319	Water Quality	\$ 230,000.00
EQIP	Conservation	\$ 211,169.00
Cities	Information/Education	\$ 1,750.00
Idaho Power	Information/Education	\$ 300.00